

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1-6 as being obvious over Hansen(6,357,440) in view of Dunford (4,670,011) is respectfully traversed. It is further respectfully submitted that Hansen has been misconstrued. Unlike as disclosed and claimed in independent claims 1 and 4,Hansen does not disclose a mask comprising a shell, a separate seal and a one-piece- headband provided with an opening through which a gas inlet conduit extends to mount the headband to the shell. To the contrary,Hansen does not disclose a separate seal rather the Hansen shell104 is pliable so as to conform to the face of a person,note Hansen col.2,lines 17 . Further to the contrary, Hansen discloses two elastic strips 109-109 which are mounted to the Hansen shell104 by being affixed to the edges of the Hansen shell at areas (plural) covered by the impermeable coating 115-115 ,note Hansen col.2,lines 45-47, and, most significantly, the Hansen hose connector 112 does not extend through either of these elastic strips.

Attached is a copy of Hansen Fig. 2 on which the mask shell 104 has been colored blue, the impermeable coating areas 115-115 have been colored red and the elastic strips109-109 have been colored green .From this is clear that Hansen does not disclose applicant's claimed mask wherein, inter alia, a gas inlet conduit extends through an opening in a one-piece elastic headband to mount the headband to the shell.

Dunford neither teaches nor suggests applicant's claimed mask and clearly does not disclose a mask , a mask seal or a gas inlet conduit extending through any opening formed in a one-piece headband . Dunford merely discloses ear coverings attached to a strap connected to goggles.

Accordingly,one of ordinary skill in this art upon viewing Hansen and Dunford does not find the mask structure recited in claims 1-6 either taught or suggested in either of these references either alone or in combination. It is thus submitted

that claims 1-6 define non-obvious subject over these references and their allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfull submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gale Rhodes, Jr.", is written over the printed name.

Reg.No. 19,833

Attorney for Applicant

Of Counsel to

Moser IP Law Group

1040 Broad St.

Shrewsbury, N.J., 07702

Direct Line 732 978 4897